

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ANGELA LOIS GREEN
AND ALEXANDER TODD HEWLETT

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my best wishes to Angela Lois Green and Alexander Todd Hewlett on their upcoming wedding. Miss Green and Mr. Hewlett will be united in holy matrimony on May 8, 1999 at seven o'clock in the evening at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Houston. Reverend L. James Bankston will officiate the candlelight double-ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Congressman and Mrs. GENE GREEN of Houston. She is the granddaughter of Mrs. Mildred Albers and the late Leon Albers of Houston, and Mr. and Mrs. Garland Green of Bedford, Pennsylvania. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hewlett of Tucson, Arizona. He is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Watkins, and of the late Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hewlett, both of Tucson, Arizona.

Serving as Matron on Honor will be Sarah Goggans. Melissa Murray will serve as Maid of Honor. Bridesmaids will include Marina Monteforte, Erin Mireur, and Karen Zientek. Members of the House Party will be Karen Rudich, Amy White, and Nichole Sepulvado.

Serving his brother as Best Man will be Andrew Hewlett. Groomsmen will be Scott Davis, Brian Somers, Babak Mokari, and Chris Green, brother of the bride. Tony Chacon, Brian Ledden, and Matt Thompson will serve as ushers.

Angela is a 1993 Honor graduate of Aldine High School in Houston. She was a member and section leader of the Aldine Band, a member of the Honor Society, and served as President of the Student Council. In 1998, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Texas at Austin, where she was a member and President of Alpha Xi Delta, and was a Robert C. Byrd Honor Scholar. She also served as Executive Vice President of the Panhellenic Council in 1996-97. She was recently elected President of the American Medical Students Association at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where she is currently a second-year medical student.

Alex is a 1992 graduate of Sabino High School in Tucson, Arizona, where he was a member of the state champion Sabino Sabercats football team. In 1996, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry from Pomona College in Claremont, California, where he was a member of Sigma Tau fraternity, and played football for the Pomona College Sagehens. Alex is a fourth-year medical student at Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Athens, Ohio. He received the Tucson Osteopathic Foundation Scholars Award in 1997. He did clinical research at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City during the summer of 1997. He is

currently doing clinical rotations at St. John West Shore Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, where he is the CORE Site Representative.

As Angela and Alex begin their new life together, may they always remember I Corinthians, which states: Love is patient and kind, love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

I would like to express my congratulations to Congressman GREEN and his wife Helen. I also ask that the House join me in wishing Angela and Alex a long and fruitful marriage. May their love continue to grow.

MEETING OUR COMMITMENT TO FUNDING SPECIAL EDUCATION

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, as I meet with teachers, school administrators and school board members in Michigan's 10th Congressional District, one thing becomes clear—paying for the costs of teaching children with special needs is expensive.

Families with special needs children face unique challenges. I believe their children should be able to learn in the least restrictive environment. But that also means we have an obligation to help provide our schools with the tools they need to do the job. When it comes to educating our children—particularly for those who have special needs—we all have a role to play.

When the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was first enacted in 1975, Congress committed to funding 40 percent of the cost. Unfortunately, the federal government has consistently fallen short of this goal. As special education costs continue to rise, we fall further behind. Currently, federal support for special needs education is at 12 percent. During such a prosperous moment in our history, surely we can do more to help our local communities and educators provide a thriving learning environment for our children who face the most challenges.

We need to step up to the plate and fulfill our commitment to our local schools. That is why I have joined a number of my colleagues in writing the President asking him to support a substantial increase in federal funding for special education, and it is why I believe we should fully fund the IDEA Act.

As we debate our budget priorities, I will continue to work with our families and local schools to provide support for improving education for all our children. I am committed to ensuring that public education is among our highest budget priorities.

TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN OF
LAWTON

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the efforts of the women of Lawton who are organizing "Lawton Women Unity '99," a day to recognize the accomplishments, the strengths, and the very being of womanhood. Hosted by "Created in His Image Ministries," on Saturday, May 8, 1999, the women of Lawton are invited to meet at the Lawton City Hall and encircle the building with a human prayer chain. They will pray for the women in Littleton, Colorado who have lost their children, as well as for others who have lost their children to violence. They will lift up the women in Kosovo and the leaders of the United States and the Lawton locality. They will pray for the needs of Lawton and Fort Sill.

The women of Lawton celebrate womanhood in the name of God and offer this open invitation to all women. It is the compassion of a woman, the deep love of a woman, and the tears of a woman that God calls for to affect change in the land. The Lawton women would like to encourage other groups with common interests in the name of women and God to organize similar events. It is the hope of the women of Lawton that the "Lawton Women Unity '99" will set a precedent in the celebration of the unity of womanhood and that the event will blossom to include statewide and nationwide participation in like events.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the efforts of the women of Lawton. These women set an example for women, and men, across the nation to follow at a time when our nation cries for restoration and unity of our people is of utmost importance.

STOP THE INHUMANE TREATMENT OF DOGS AND CATS

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on April 29, 1999 I introduced the Dog and Cat Protection Act. I was appalled to learn about the use of dog and cat fur on coats, toys, and other merchandise as profiled in a recent segment of "Dateline NBC". Immediately thereafter, I began drafting legislation to end this abusive practice. While crafting this measure, I contacted the Humane Society of the United States for their input. As a result of these efforts, I introduced H.R. 1622, the Dog and Cat Protection Act.

An estimated 2,000,000 dogs and cats are slaughtered and sold annually as part of the international fur trade. Many of these animals

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

are raised in deplorable conditions. Unfortunately, there are no federal laws to prohibit the importation, manufacture, transport or sale of any product made with dog and cat fur. The only provision in law to regulate the importation of products made with cat and dog fur is the Fur Products Labeling Act (FPLA). The FPLA and its regulations simply require that any product with a value of more than \$150 contain a label informing a consumer that it contains animal fur. Any product worth less than \$150 is exempted from the labeling requirement.

My legislation would impose a ban on all products entering the United States made with cat and dog fur. In order to prevent a foreign importer from establishing operations in the United States, H.R. 1622 would also prevent the sale, manufacture, transport, or advertisement of any product made domestically with cat and dog fur.

Furthermore, H.R. 1622 would give additional authority to the Customs Service to inspect products entering the United States to ensure they do not contain cat and dog fur. Violators of the ban would be subject to both civil and criminal penalties. Furthermore, persons found to be in violation of the ban would face the prospect of being permanently prohibited from selling any fur product in the United States.

The Dog and Cat Protection Act also amends the Fur Products Labeling Act to require all fur products entering the United States—regardless of their value—to contain a label showing their true content. This means those persons who try to mislabel products in order to get around the ban contained in my legislation would face additional penalties under the Fur Products Labeling Act. The additional labeling requirements will also help the Customs Service in their enforcement efforts.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to put an end to the inhumane treatment of dogs and cats once and for all. I urge my colleagues to become cosponsors of H.R. 1622.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO SUSPEND DUTIES ON IM- PORTED RAW MATERIAL

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which supports important regional and national interests.

My home, the 7th Congressional District of Washington, is also the home of the K2 Corp., the last remaining major U.S. manufacturer of skis and one of three major makers of snowboards in the United States. K2 conducts all significant manufacturing operations for skis and snowboards at its Vashon Island, Washington facility. In fact, all K2 snowboards and virtually all K2 and Olin-brand skis sold throughout the world are individually crafted by technicians on Vashon Island. Moreover, K2 sources almost all of the components for its skis and snowboards in the U.S. stimulating the U.S. economy through its purchases of raw materials from U.S. suppliers, especially in the Pacific Northwest region of the country. However, for a key ski and snowboard component—polyethylene base materials—K2 has

been unable to find a supplier of these products in the U.S. that can meet its needs. Therefore, K2 has been forced to import this product, which is subject to U.S. customs duties upon importation. This legislation provides for a temporary suspension of customs duty on the raw material which is vital to the U.S. production of skis and snowboards and which are unavailable from domestic producers.

K2 is working hard to remain viable in the highly competitive international market for skis and snowboards. In fact, K2 has endured as a U.S. ski manufacturer in the face of fierce price competition, while several other major ski companies no longer manufacture skis in the U.S. This temporary duty suspension legislation would support jobs in the region, as well as K2's ability to continue developing innovative, fine quality products. Equally important, a temporary duty suspension would help K2 preserve and increase its competitiveness in the global marketplace.

K2 is the only major exporter of skis made in the U.S. In addition, K2 is one of three principal exporters of U.S. made snowboards. Thus, K2's exports of U.S. manufactured skis and snowboards represent a substantial percentage of U.S. skis and snowboards sold worldwide. If K2 is unable to remain competitive in global and domestic markets, skis manufactured in the U.S. may disappear from the global marketplace. The temporary duty suspension proposed by this legislation would help prevent the shutdown of the only remaining U.S. producer of skis.

OPPOSING NATIONAL TEACHER CERTIFICATION OR NATIONAL TEACHER TESTING

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to forbid the use of federal funds to develop or implement a national system of teacher certification or a national teacher test. My bill also forbids the Department of Education from denying funds to any state or local education agency because that state or local educational agency has refused to adopt a federally-approved method of teacher certification or testing. This legislation in no way interferes with a state's ability to use federal funds to support their chosen method of teacher certification or testing.

Having failed to implement a national curriculum through the front door with national student testing (thanks to the efforts of members of the Education Committee under the leadership of Chairman GOODLING), the administration is now trying to implement a national curriculum through the backdoor with national teacher testing and certification. National teacher certification will allow the federal government to determine what would-be teachers need to know in order to practice their chosen profession. Teacher education will revolve around preparing teachers to pass the national test or to receive a national certificate. New teachers will then base their lesson plans on what they needed to know in order to receive their Education Department-approved teaching certificate. Therefore, I call on those of my colleagues who oppose a national curriculum to

join me in opposing national teacher testing and certification with the same vigor with which you opposed national student testing.

Many educators are already voicing opposition to national teacher certification and testing. The Coalition of Independent Education Associations (CIEA), which represents the majority of the over 300,000 teachers who are members of independent educators associations, has passed a resolution opposing the nationalization of teacher certification and testing; I have attached a copy of this resolution for insertion into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. As more and more teachers realize the impact of this proposal, I expect opposition from the education community to grow. Teachers want to be treated as professionals, not as minions of the federal government.

Legislation has already been introduced in the Texas State Legislature prohibiting the use of any national certification or national examination to determine if someone is qualified to teach in Texas. While I applaud this legislation, I wonder if Texas would change its policies if the Department of Education threatened to deny Texas federal funds if Texas failed to adopt the Department's chosen method of teacher certification and testing. It is up to Congress to see that the Department of Education does not bully the states into adopting the method of teacher certification and testing favored by DC-based bureaucrats.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to join me in opposing national teacher certification or national teacher testing. Training and certification of classroom teachers is the job of state governments, local school districts, educators, and parents; this vital function should not be usurped by federal bureaucrats and/or politicians. Please stand up for America's teachers and students by signing on as a cosponsor of my legislation to ensure taxpayer dollars do not support national teacher certification or national teacher testing.

COALITION OF INDEPENDENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS—STATEMENT ON NATIONAL TEACHER LICENSURE, FEBRUARY 26, 1999

The licensure of teachers should remain the responsibility of each state's Board of Education and any attempt to authorize the federal government to govern this process should be opposed.

Secretary of Education Richard Riley's proposal (February 16, 1999) to empower a teacher panel to grant licenses for teaching would remove the separate state's authority to protect the welfare of the general public.

Teaching is a public enterprise and not a private profession.

Such high stakes licensure decisions must be controlled by a body that is responsible to the public and has accountability for the quality of the decision.

The current education reform movement has compelled states' Boards of Education to revamp and improve teacher licensure programs. This right should be left to the states to best determine how they license state teachers.

Congress should oppose any movement toward federalizing educator licensure, teacher appraisal, and employment contracts.

The undersigned representatives of the Coalition of Independent Education Associations strongly urge our members of the Congress and the Senate to vigorously defend the rights of states to control their educational destiny.

Arizona Professional Educators, Association of American Educators, Association of Professional Educators of Louisiana, Association of Professional